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Community Pride Reporter, 03/1998b

Community Pride Reporter

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Community Pride Reporter

*Proudly serving the Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, Transgender Community*

Vol. 6, Number 6 [a]

March 1998 [#2]

Tourist Towns Consider Equal Rights Ordinances

BAR HARBOR, Maine (AP) Two tourist towns have taken cautious first steps that could lead to adoption of local gay rights ordinances following last month's statewide vote that deleted sexual orientation from Maine's human rights code.

Bar Harbor and Camden voted about 3-1 in favor of the gay rights legislation that was narrowly defeated in the Feb. 10 referendum, and some residents suggest that the towns should enact anti-discrimination measures of their own.

Should that happen, the two coastal towns would join Portland and Long Island as the only Maine communities with such ordi-

nances on the books.

Gay rights supporters in Camden and Bar Harbor indicated that their stance was motivated by economic considerations as well as by a desire to outlaw discrimination against homosexuals in such areas as housing, jobs and public accommodations.

Chamber of commerce officials in the two towns expressed fear that some would-be vacationers may boycott all of Maine this summer without realizing that Camden and Bar Harbor lined up solidly in favor of gay rights.

After two of its members raised the issue Tuesday night, the Bar Harbor Town Council voted to ask the town

attorney to draft an ordinance that would a focus for debate at a future meeting.

The night before, Camden real estate broker Susan Dorr asked the Board of Selectmen to adopt a gay rights measure.

"It just makes use of the very clear message that Camden voters have said twice on this matter," said Dorr, who pointed to the town's strong anti-discrimination stance in two statewide votes.

"This is an important area to explore, to say unequivocally that Camden won't discriminate," she said.

While expressing support for gay rights, selectmen

instructed the town attorney to review the legal ramifications and advised the town manager to seek information on local anti-discrimination ordinances.

A leader in the gay rights campaign, Karen Geraghty of Maine Won't Discriminate, said she could understand the frustration of townspeople that prompted the local efforts but reiterated that a statewide law was the ideal solution.

"Every citizen in Maine ought to have the same basic rights," Geraghty said. "I don't think that if you grow up in Bangor that you ought to have to move to Portland or Camden or any other place in order to have protection against discrimination."

Horror Writer's Gift Funds Shelter For Abused Mothers And Children

BATH, Maine (AP) Stephen King, whose best-selling novel "Rose Madder" focused on the impact of domestic violence, has donated \$50,000 to Family Crisis Services to open a shelter in Bath for abused women and children.

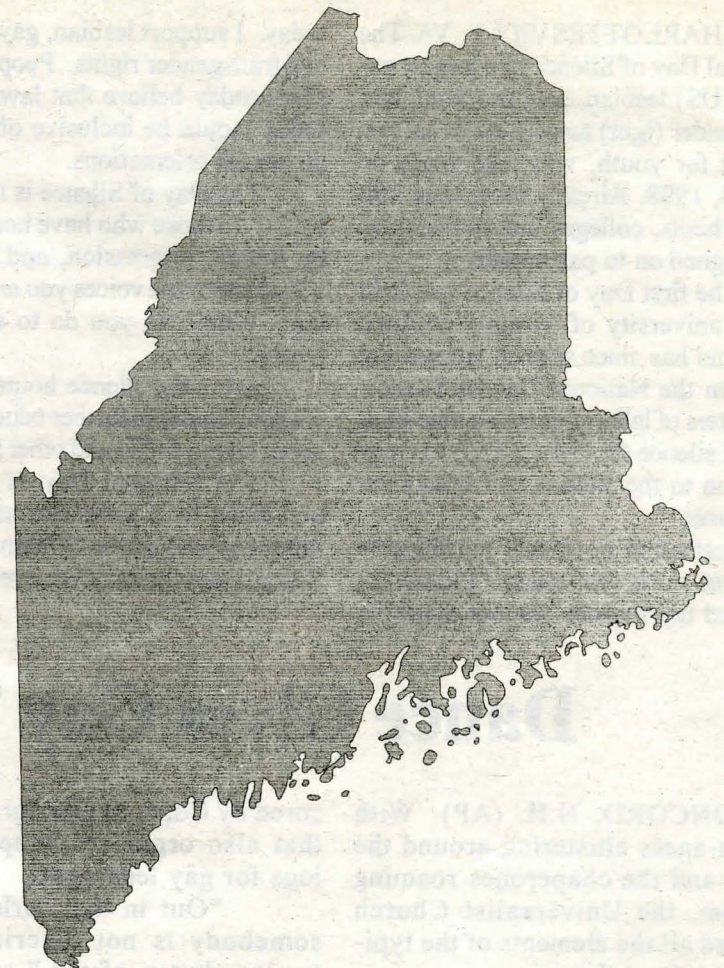
The gift was among the latest examples of low-key philanthropy by King and his wife Tabitha, whose past donations have benefited the University of Maine, the Bangor Public Library and Little League baseball, among others.

Backers had hoped to open the shelter later this spring in a house with a tenant whose rent would help pay the mortgage. Thanks to the Kings' gift, the entire building will be used as a shelter and renovations will be completed earlier than first anticipated.

Lois Reckitt, director of Family Crisis Services, said the check arrived Christmas Eve, at a time when the financial outlook for the planned shelter was uncertain.

"We started dancing around and hugging each other in the office," Reckitt said. "That's how huge a gift it was for us."

The Kings, who live in Bangor, have a policy of not commenting on their charitable efforts.



**Call your Town Office: Ask if they
are holding meetings concerning
Equal Rights Ordinances.**

Bowdoin Seeks Answer To Discrimination Concerns

Brunswick, Maine (AP) The president of Bowdoin College said he thinks new programs will dispel concerns about discrimination raised in a national survey of students at four-year private colleges.

President Robert Edwards was dismayed when the survey found that Bowdoin students reported a higher-than-average perception of discrimination against women, minorities, the disabled, and lesbians and gays.

The graduating seniors told Higher Education Research Institute that 45 percent of their classmates were prejudiced against women and 55 percent were biased against Hispanics, blacks and Asians.

Between 54 percent and 69 percent said they observed discrimination against those groups, as well as lesbians and gays.

"I absolutely think those numbers are going to change," Edwards said. "I think this campus is fundamentally right-minded, and we have to be eternally vigilant to be our best selves."

He pointed to a number of programs the college has created that he hopes will change students' perceptions.

For example, there is now more

faculty and staff discussion about discrimination, Edwards said. Also, the college created a new sexual harassment policy and gave a professor six months off to study the role of women at the college, he said.

Bowdoin also has an ongoing mentoring program that matches minority students with minority alumni. And it has barred fraternities, which attracted more white men than women and minorities.

Betty Trout-Kelly, who works with Edwards' office on minority issues, has spent the last eight years trying to make Bowdoin more hospitable to its Hispanic, black and Asian students.

She said many Bowdoin professors still express shock that some of those students do well in class.

"What they do often is assume they don't know the answers," she said. As a result, she said, the students are invisible in classes and can become alienated from their peers.

Part of Edwards' solution is to attract more black, Asian and Hispanic professors. Bates College in Lewiston has 26 minority professors, nearly twice Bowdoin's number, officials said.

Hate Group Takes Message To The internet

By Eddie Pells

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) Hate groups are on the rise, boosted by the Internet and white-power rock music.

In its quarterly report on extremist organizations, the Southern Poverty Law Center said Tuesday that it counted 474 hate groups nationwide in 1997, a 20 percent increase over 1996. Some of the groups have Web pages.

"It's cheap, it's efficient, it gives you instant communication," project director Joe Roy said. "You can reach anywhere with it. It's a great format to communicate, vent your frustrations."

Among the groups cited in the report was Detroit-based Resistance Records, a company that distributes CDs with racially tinged lyrics.

The report called Resistance Records one of the more sophisticated hate groups. "You look at their magazine, the albums and they're very professional," extremist-group expert Michael Barkun said in the report.

Executives of the company didn't immediately return calls for comment.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, founded in the 1970s to battle discrimination against minorities, won major legal fights against the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacist groups.

A separate report by two gay advocacy groups Tuesday said anti-gay violence and harassment increased nationwide by 2 percent last year in 14 areas around country.

There were 2,445 documented cases of anti-gay violence and harassment last year in the 14 areas, according to the report by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs and the New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project.

However, the number of murders related to anti-gay violence dropped to 18 in 1997 from 27 in 1996, according to the report, based on data gathered by unofficial local groups.

The 14 areas tracked were New York City; Los Angeles; San Francisco; California's central coast; Chicago; Cleveland; Columbus, Ohio; Washington, D.C.; Detroit; El Paso, Texas; Massachusetts; Phoenix; St. Louis; and Virginia.

Over 100 High Schools Colleges and Universities to Participate in 1998 National Day of Silence.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA The National Day of Silence, the largest national (US) lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (lgbt) awareness event run by and for youth, will take place on April 8, 1998. Already more than 100 high schools, colleges and universities have signed on to participate.

The first Day of Silence was held at the university of Virginia in April 1996 and has since spread nationwide.

On the National Day of Silence, supporters of lgbt rights take a nine-hour vow of silence (8 AM - 5 PM) to draw attention to the silence that homophobia causes.

Instead of speaking, participants hand out cards that read: "Please understand my reasons for not speaking

today. I support lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights. People who are silent today believe that laws and attitudes should be inclusive of people of all sexual orientations.

The Day of Silence is to draw attention to those who have been silenced by hatred, oppression, and prejudice. Think about the voices you are not hearing. What can you do to end the silence?"

After the silence hours, organizers hold events to further educate people about homophobia and other lgbt issues.

The National Day of Silence is organized by a volunteer staff of full time students. Jessie Gilliam and Maria Pulzetti, co-chairs of the event, are fea-

tured in the "Profile in Courage" in the March issue of Oasis Magazine (www.oasismag.com).

They have also been invited to appear as keynote speakers at Youth Pride Day in Washington, D.C. on April 18.

National Day of Silence Co-chair Maria Pulzetti comments, "I have watched this event grow from a first-time event at a conservative university to a national and even international movement of youth working to end homophobia.

The strength of this event lies in the fact that it fills a real need for solidarity among youth concerned about lgbt rights. The National Day of Silence is the only national event created

and organized by youth. The collective statement we make is staggering."

The National Day of Silence has received organizational endorsements from the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN), Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), Advocates for Youth, !OutProud!, And Justice for All, and Youth Guardian Services.

If you or someone you know attends a school, college, or youth group and would like to participate in the National Day of Silence, please contact your regional coordinator (see web page, <http://www.youth-guard.org/ndos>) or send e-mail inquiries to mkp6n@unix.virginia.edu.

Dance Gives Gay Teens A Night Of Comfort

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) With the teen-agers clustering around the dee jay and the chaperones roaming the room, the Universalist Church event had all the elements of the typical high school dance.

But this was different. The dozens of teens who spent Saturday night dancing with their friends found a comfort level they don't find elsewhere.

The approximately 50 teens are gay, lesbian and bisexual. The dance was the fourth of its kind spon-

sored by Concord Outright, a group that also organizes support meetings for gay teen-agers.

"Out in the world, even if somebody is not discriminating, you're always afraid," said Carey Harris, a senior at John Stark Regional High School. "Here it doesn't matter. No one judges you. This is open, and it's really nice."

The goal of the dance is "to have a situation where kids feel safe," said Knox Turner, Concord Outright administrator.

At other dances, "they can't bring the person they really want to dance with," Turner said. "These kids are struggling with what they believe is a very hostile environment."

A 17-year-old Goffstown student said coming to the dance made him realize he's not alone.

"I got to a high school where no one else is out," he said. "Just being with people who know what I went through, those are very important things."

Besides support and understanding, the dance gives the teen-agers the chance to meet potential dates, something they say isn't easy in New Hampshire.

"Every chance I get, I want to go to New York, San Francisco or Boston," said Tami Webster, 19, of Manchester. "I think in general, cities are more accepting. There's more diversity all around so all the attention isn't focused on you."

Girls, Women And Boys Trek To Feminist Summit

By Paisley Dodds

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) Self-esteem is in. Skinny models are out. And it's high time for a female president.

Meet the young feminists.

"A lot of people don't understand that feminism isn't just about women, it's about equal rights," says Zachary Bowman, an 18-year-old high school student from Portland, Maine. "Not all women are supermodels. Not all men like to play sports. Not all people are treated equally. That's what it's about."

About 700 feminists ranging from 8- to 80-years-old trekked to Massachusetts this weekend for the Young Feminist Summit, sponsored by the National Organization for Women.

Participants broke off into groups to talk about how women are portrayed in the media, how welfare reform will affect the poor, about rape and teen pregnancy.

The aim of the conference was to bring together men and women of all ages to talk about issues facing feminism today, said N.O.W. President Patricia Ireland.

"This is not our mothers' movement anymore," Ireland said in an interview on Saturday. "Those who see that there is still inequality, those who are not lulled by complacency, seem to link together these days. It's only natural that some of the people are men, and even boys."

About 70 young men showed up for the summit. Bowman, three other young men, and about 20 young women sat cross-

legged and spent more than an hour cutting out magazine advertisements they felt "dissed" women.

"Yea, of course we still think that models are beautiful. But what we want to do is teach people that only about 5 percent of the world's population has the genetic makeup of supermodels," said Bowman, who volunteers in an abuse-prevention program targeted at young people.

Zachary's group pasted supermodel Naomi Campbell's face onto a Rubenesque body clad in sweatpants.

Anna Bullet's group pasted an "X" cut from a mascara ad over a picture of a bare-legged woman.

"We're tired of looking at half-naked women in magazines," said the 13-year-old from Auburn Middle School in Auburn, Maine. "We don't want to read articles about how to get a man or how to please a man. We want to read articles about how to be happy or about issues affecting us."

Ireland said the faces at the summit show that real progress has been made in the women's rights movement, but there's still work to be done.

"We now have laws that call for equal pay for equal work. We now have laws to protect against harassment. We have access to birth control. When I come here and see that these kids are lightyears ahead where we were 30 years ago, it makes me feel great."

Thorton Students Agree To Stop Harassment

Saco, Maine (AP) Two Saco teen-agers accused of harassing a fellow Thornton Academy student because they thought he was gay have signed an agreement to stay away from him.

Assistant Attorney General Stephen Wessler said Corey Gaumont and Ryan Kerry, both 16, signed consent agreements this week.

Wessler said the consent agreement is not an admission of guilt, but would protect the victim from future harassment by the boys.

The boys were charged with the civil rights complaint in February for allegedly harassing the student.

The state wanted the in-


junction under the Maine Civil Rights Act to prevent the boys from threatening or assaulting any person because of their perceived sexual orientation.

The state had alleged that Kerry and Gaumont were involved in separate incidents of name calling and harassment, including one in which Kerry allegedly threatened the boy with a knife during a foreign language class.

The Saco Police Department has conducted a criminal investigation of the allegations, a police spokesman said. Criminal charges could be filed if the findings are forwarded to the York County district attorney's office for review.

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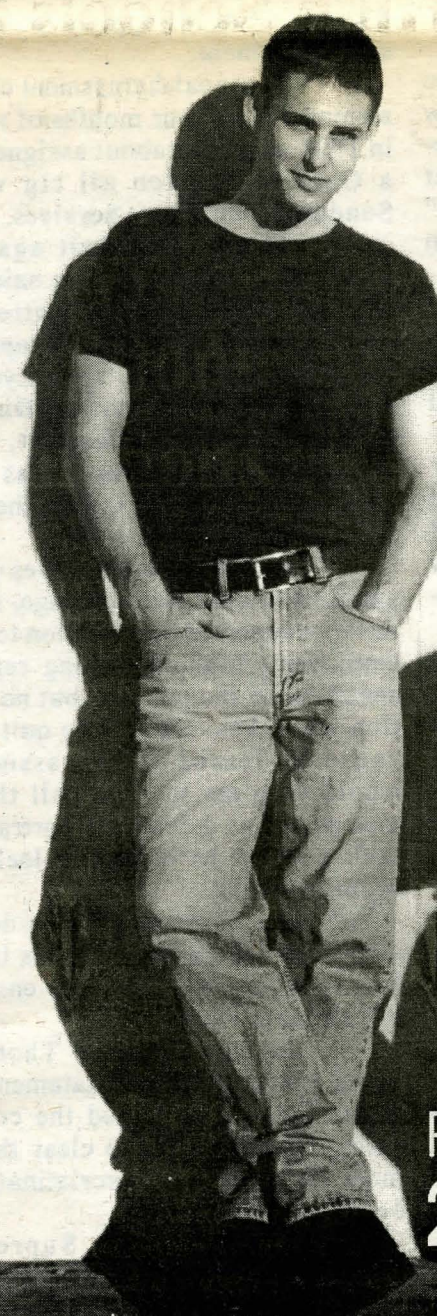
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Sexual Harassment Covers Same-Sex Mistreatment

By Richard Carelli

WASHINGTON (AP) On-the-job torment can be illegal sexual harassment even when the offender and victim are the same sex, the Supreme Court said Wednesday in a decision that could touch virtually every American workplace.

The court said same-sex harassment can violate a federal anti-discrimination law as it voted unanimously to revive a Louisiana lawsuit closely watched by the nation's employers and gay-rights groups.

In that lawsuit, a man alleged he was sexually harassed by three other men while working on a Gulf of Mexico oil rig.

Wednesday's decision provided important new guidelines for resolving sex-harassment claims, but plenty of questions remain about the legality of certain conduct in specific employment settings.

"Common sense and an appropriate sensitivity to social context will enable courts and juries to distinguish" between what is legal and illegal, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote for the court.

"We're very pleased with the commonsense standard the court adopted," said Ann Reesman, a lawyer for the Equal Employment Advisory Council, an employers' group. "This adds some clarity."

Gay-rights advocates also praised the ruling. "Civil rights law will no longer unfairly exclude same-sex sexual harassment, and this fact will benefit all American workers," said Elizabeth Birch of the Human Rights Campaign.

The ruling allows victims of homosexual harassment to get into federal court even though Congress never has said bias based on sexual orientation is illegal.

Kathy Rodgers of the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund said the ruling "once and for all places sexual harassment law squarely in the mainstream of anti-discrimination law."

The term "harassment" does not appear in the text of the anti-bias law known as Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. But the Supreme Court ruled in 1986 that sexual harassment amounts to discrimination if it creates a "hostile environment" in the workplace.

In subsequent rulings, the justices said a hostile environment can come about not only by overtly sexual behavior but also by "discriminatory intimidation, ridicule and insult ... sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the victim's employment."

Scalia's seven-page opinion said, "We see no justification ... for a categorical rule excluding same-sex harassment claims from the coverage of Title VII." But he warned lower courts about mistaking "ordinary socializing in the workplace such as

male-on-male horseplay or intersexual flirtation for discriminatory conditions of employment."

All circumstances must be considered, Scalia said and gave the example of a football coach smacking the fanny of a player who's heading onto the field. Nothing illegal there, Scalia said, but that's not necessarily the case when the coach does the same thing to his secretary, male or female.

He said concerns that Title VII will become "a general civility code for the American workplace" are misguided.

"That risk is no greater for same-sex than for opposite-sex harassment, and is adequately met by careful attention to the requirements of the statute," Scalia said.

He added: "Title VII does not prohibit all verbal or physical harassment in the workplace; it is directed only at discrimination because of sex," Scalia said. "The critical issue ... is whether members of one sex are exposed to disadvantageous terms or conditions of employment to which members of the other sex are not exposed."

In the Louisiana case, a federal appeals court ruled as it threw out Joseph Oncale's lawsuit that the federal law never applies to same-sex harassment.

His sexual-harassment claim stemmed from four months of work in 1991 as a roustabout assigned to a Gulf of Mexico oil rig with Sundowner Offshore Services.

Oncale's lawsuit against Sundowner and three men said he was sexually assaulted, battered, touched and threatened with rape by his direct supervisor, John Lyons, and a second supervisor, Danny Phippen. Another defendant, co-worker Brandon Johnson, was accused of assisting in one of the alleged incidents.

Oncale, who now lives in a small town near Baton Rouge, said he twice reported the situation to his employer's highest-ranking representative on the job site, but no action was taken. He said he quit because he feared the harassment would escalate to rape. All three men named as defendants portrayed their conduct as hazing or locker-room horseplay.

The Supreme Court's decision allows Oncale to take his lawsuit to a jury but does not ensure his ultimate victory.

Justice Clarence Thomas wrote a one-paragraph statement in which he said he joined the court ruling because it made clear there must be proof of "discrimination because of sex."

Thomas' 1991 Supreme Court confirmation hearing was marked by sensational allegations of sexual harassment.

Five Divas Of Disco To Perform At Gay Festival

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP) emcee.

The disco ball will be spinning during the gay and lesbian pride festival this spring.

The five Divas of Disco will perform May 2 at Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium, Grand Strand nightclub owners said Tuesday.

Performers will include Alicia Bridges ("I Love The Nightlife"); Thelma Houston ("Don't Leave Me This Way"); Vicki Sue Robinson ("Turn The Beat Around"); Sister Sledge ("We Are Family"); and Gloria Gaynor ("I Will Survive").

Deney Terrio, who hosted "Dance Fever," will be the concert

The Village People originally were to perform at Broadway at the Beach. But Burroughs & Chapin Co. Inc., one of the area's largest landowners, said the festival goes against "family values" and refused to allow the outdoor concert at its entertainment complex.

Concert tickets are \$25 each and may be purchased by calling Celebrations at (803) 444-3500, Revolutions Retro at (803) 444-8032, or the Pride98 switchboard at (803) 272-3341. Gates open at 3 p.m. May 2 and the five-hour concert starts at 4 p.m.

State Organization Calls For Boycott Of Myrtle Beach

Myrtle Beach, S.C. (AP) Until the mayor changes his tune, union families should vacation elsewhere and union groups find other places for conventions, the president of the South Carolina AFL-CIO says.

"I have heard nothing but discriminatory remarks coming from the mayor," said Donna Dewitt, who wants a boycott until it is clear Mayor Mark McBride won't discriminate.

Last week the mayor voted against closing the streets for a gay rights march, saying he wanted to avoid setting a precedent for skinheads, union groups, abortionists or the Ku Klux Klan.

McBride was the only city council member who opposed closing the streets for the May 2 South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride March.

He has said he opposes the "gay lifestyle" but that has nothing to do with closing the streets.

"They might not like what I say, but I have a right to have an opinion, and I haven't discriminated against anybody," McBride said.

McBride said everybody is welcome and his views do not necessarily reflect those of the city. He noted the city lifted the noise ordinance for a concert and closed the streets for the march.

"I am very aware of what the AFL-CIO is, and I would hope they

wouldn't in any way do anything against Myrtle Beach just because of the lack of success the unions have had organizing in the state," he said.

At least 50 AFL-CIO unions hold meetings or seminars in Myrtle Beach each year. The union says groups that have already scheduled visits should use only union-affiliated facilities.

City council members are concerned that the labor group, with 55,000 members statewide and 13 million nationally, would encourage a boycott.

"That could really hurt the city, and it's an unfair judgment of the people of Myrtle Beach," Councilwoman Rachel Broadhurst said. "I don't know how the city combats that without leadership from the mayor. He is not speaking for the rest of us."

Patrick Evans, co-chairman of the Gay Pride Festival, has mixed feelings about the boycott.

"I love Myrtle Beach," he said. "While I am very ashamed of what ... Burroughs & Chapin ... and the mayor are doing to damage our reputation, this is my home and I don't want our town to suffer."

Burroughs & Chapin Co. Inc., one of the area's largest landowners, has said the festival goes against "family values" and refused to allow an outdoor Village People concert at its Broadway at the Beach entertainment complex.

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Community Pride Resources

ML/GPA

a state-wide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on L/G issues. Primary goals are to involve the L/G community in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month at the Maine Education Association building in Augusta. Questions, please call (207) 761-3732 or (800) 55-MLGPA.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

P-FLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Come and celebrate our children and friends just the way they are! (See listings for Maine & New Hampshire under PHONE SUPPORT and SUPPORT GROUPS.)

Northern Lambda Nord

an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in north-

ern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (N-B), at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 S. Main St., Caribou. FMI write NLN, PO Box 990, Caribou, ME 04736-0990. The Phoneline is staffed every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7-9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or 1-800-468-2088

The Matlovich Society

An educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing person-affirming presentations and discussions in a supportive environment. Meetings on the second and fourth Thursday every month at 7:30 pm at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. Portland. Free parking and accessible to the mobility-impaired. Call 207-773-8308

National Association of Social Workers, ME.

Chapter, Sexual Minority Issues Committee welcomes new social work members. Our purpose is to educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities in Maine. FMI call NASW, 207-622-7592.

Hate Crimes & Bias Incidents:

Have you or someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Maine Department of the Attorney General at 626-8844.

Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights: (CAGLR),

New Hampshire's oldest progressive gay/lesbian civil rights organization, welcomes all those interested in these goals to weekly meetings, programs, socials and various other events. Newsletter. Call Info-line 603-224-1686 or write to PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0730.

The Rainbow Business & Professional Association

A state-wide, non-profit organization established to create a gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered "chamber of commerce" for Maine. Meetings for networking or dinner with speaker events, held in the Greater Portland area, second Monday of the month. FMI write P.O. Box 6627, Scarborough, ME 04070-6627, call 207-775-0015 or e-mail wildboys@mainelink.net.

Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights

Trains and deploys volunteers state-wide to speak with citizen groups in their towns and regions about their lives and the lives of others who experience discrimination in Maine. For information on activities in your county: 207-879-0480 or write: MSOP, 123 Congress St., #1, Portland 04101. You need not be a speaker to work with Speakout!

Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network

GLSEN is a national organization working to end homophobia in schools. GLSEN members are committed to the belief that all students have the right to learn in schools which are free from discrimination, harassment and threats. All people who share this philosophy, regardless of sexual orientation or occupation, are welcome as members. The Southern Maine chapter of GLSEN meets 6:30 - 8:30 on the fourth Monday of the month (with some exceptions for holidays and vacations) at Waynflete School Library, 64 Emery St., Portland. Non-members welcome. FMI 207-773-9547 or write POB 10334, Portland ME 04104.

Support Groups

Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings:

Concord: Meets 3rd Sunday from 3-5 pm at 1st Congregational Church, Washington & North Main Streets. (use Washington St. entrance). FMI call 603-472-4944.

Seacoast: Meets 1st Tuesday from 7-9 pm at Stratham Community Church, Emery Lane, Stratham (1st right west of Rte 101 circle). FMI call 603-772-5196.

Plymouth: Meets first Sunday, 7-9 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church. FMI call 603-968-7254 or 603-786-9812.

Maine P-FLAG Meetings

Portland: Meets 2nd Tuesday 7-9 PM at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St. FMI call 207-766-5158 or 207-774-3441.

Brunswick/Bath: Brunswick-Bath Chapter of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) meets on the last Thursday of each month at 7 pm in the room across from the library, Mid-Coast Hospital, Brunswick. Please use the back door from the back parking lot. FMI call 207-729-0519.

Lewiston/Auburn: Meets last Sunday of the month from 6:30-8:30 pm. FMI call 207-783-9789.

Women's Center

Belfast - Weekly meetings, 9A Main St., 2nd floor (above Jaret & Cohn). Group meeting every Wednesday, 6:15 pm. Women's Spirituality Gatherings, Mondays 7-9 pm. FMI call 207-338-5702

NA: Just for Today

meetings every Wednesday, 8:15 pm, at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland. Use Park St. entrance in rear. Also Friday meeting, 8:00 pm, Immanuel Baptist Church, corner Deering & High St. Use entrance off Deering St.

Out and About

a lesbian support and educational group, meets on 1st & 3rd Wednesday monthly, 7:00 pm., United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Ave, Portsmouth, NH. FMI: POB 5691, Portsmouth, NH 03902, or call 603-430-5418.

Am Chofshi

A Maine Lesbian/Gay Jewish support group, meets monthly. FMI call 207-883-6004.

Exeter Congregational Church

United Church of Christ in Exeter, NH has adopted an Open and Affirming Statement & welcomes all God's children to worship, Sundays, 10 am. 21 Front St. (near Court St.) Co-pastors the Revs. Michael L.C. Henderson & Jane Geffken Henderson. FMI call Ingrid at 603-772-6221.

Lesbian/Gay Catholics

The organization Dignity/Maine offers supportive Masses for lg/bt Catholics & their friends/families. Meets every Sunday at 6:00 pm in St. Luke's Cathedral, side chapel, 143 State St., Portland. Coffee & dessert after the liturgy. FMI call Rosemary or Janet: 207-646-2820 or Laurie: 207-878-0546 or write: Dignity/Maine, POB 8113, Portland 04104. All replies kept confidential.

The Appollo Society

an out-reach, networking and social organization for New England's gay and lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists and Hellenes. Free speech/civil rights advocacy group offering freedom-from-religion support, religious de-programming and fun! FMI call 207-773-5726 or P.O. Box 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

Circle of Hope MCC.

Circle of Hope Metropolitan Community Church meets each Sunday at 2:00 PM at 156 High Street (corner of Deering and High - Immanuel Baptist Church building) A Christian church founded in and reaching beyond the gay and lesbian community. FMI email MCCclergy@aol.com or call toll free 1-888-264-6223. PO Box 1671 Portland, ME 04104.

Central Maine Gay Men's Support Group

We provide a safe place to discuss issues going on in our lives or just to be with people in a safe non-alcoholic environment.

FMI call 207-621-1888 or 207-621-4254.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group

1st and 3rd Fridays each month, 7-9 pm. First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI call Larry Godfrey at 207-594-2957.

Support Group—Penobscot & Surrounding Counties

For men who have sex with men. Monthly meetings to talk about issues and concerns. Call 207-990-2095 for more info & meeting times.

Q-Squad

Support group for lesbian, gays, bi's & transgendered. Serving Franklin County, based at UM Farmington. FMI call and leave message at 207-778-7380.

TransSupport

Support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, their families, friends. Meets in secure locations to provide support, education & social activities. Write TransSupport,

P.O. Box 17622, Portland, 04112 or phone 207-945-3092.

Gender Talk North

Gender support. Write for newsletter, P.O. Box 421, Peterborough, NH 03458. 603-924-8828. E-mail gtnorth@top.monad.net Web page (under construction) <http://top.monad.net/~gtnorth/index.htm>

Trans Counseling

Cheshire Counseling Assoc., PO Box 1124, Keene, NH 03431. 603-357-5544.

Maine Bisexual People's Network

Meets as a part of Bisexual Discussion & Support Group (see listing below). For counseling &/or other bi support, write: P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME, 04104-6818

Bisexual Discussion & Support Group

Discussion and support group for women and men. Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays monthly, 7:30-9pm in room 1,

Payson Smith Hall, Falmouth st., University of SoME, Portland. Open to non-students and students of all ages.

FMI Fax: SHOLMES@maine.maine.edu. or Call 780-3757(private voice mail)

Prisoners of Gender

(Refusing to be Barbie, Ken or both). Meets every Friday at 1:15 pm at Davis Room, Memorial Union, UM at Orono

Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group

Meets every Tuesday, 7-9 PM, at Women's Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall at UM Orono. FMI call 207-581-1425.

Dover, NH

Gay/Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered support Group meets Sundays 7-8pm, Quaker Mtg. House, Central Ave. Social times too. FMI call 603-743-GAY2 eves.

Lewiston/Auburn

A new gay, lesbian, bisexual support group for the Lewiston/Auburn area meets Mondays at 7 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Spring St., Auburn.

Bangor Lesbian Support Group

This Lesbian Support Group welcomes any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. They seek to create woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each another as lesbians. Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are required.

Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm.

Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center

334 Harlow St., Bangor. FMI: call 207-947-5337. S.N.A.P.

Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests. Monthly support group for men & women healing from sexual abuse by clergy of any denomination. Meets in Portland location on third Friday of the month. FMI call 207-774-5025.

DEGLO (Down East Gay & Lesbian Org.)

Meets 2nd Saturday of the month, 5:30 pm at the UU Church, Park Street, Bangor.

Maine Gender Resource & Support Service

Information, referrals and education for the transgender community, helping professionals and the general public. Write McGRESS, PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894 or call 207-945-3092.

All Maine Transgender

Group Support for all Crossdressers, Transvestites, Transgenders, Transsexuals. All inclusive group, gay, lesbian, bi, straight. Confidential and discreet, Bangor meeting place. Meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Call 207-947-1686 for time and place, or FMI write AMT P.O. Box 145 Brewer, ME 04412.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group

For dates, places and times write GLB Parents Group, P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME 04104.

Mothers and Kids Group

Social events and group support for lesbians and their children. Emphasis on inclusion of lesbians in the process of becoming pregnant or adopting. Meets monthly in the greater Portland area. FMI write: P.O. Box 2235, South Portland, ME 04116.

GLAD to be Sober

Meets Wednesdays at 7:30 pm at the North Church - at the corner of north Main and Washington Streets - in Concord NH. Use the Washington street entrance.

Tiffany Club of New England (TCNE)

TCNE is a weekly support group for all transgender-identified individuals: cross-dressers, transsexuals, and others, along with their spouses and significant others. Meetings are Tuesdays from 7-10pm. FMI: TCNE, PO Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888-0483.

Maine AIDS Alliance

Maine AIDS Alliance: 39 Green Street, Augusta, ME 04330. Call 207-621-2924. Fax: 207-622-2662.

AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn: P.O. Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243. Call 207-786-4697.

AIDS Lodging House: 142 High Street Suite 609, Portland, ME 04101. Call 207-773-7165.

Camp Chrysalis: PO Box 990, Belfast, Maine 04915. Call 207-3338-5089.

Community AIDS Awareness Program: PO Box 457, Rumford, ME 04276 Call 207-364-8603.

Community Task Force on AIDS Education: PO Box 941, Naples, ME 04055.

Dayspring AIDS Support Services: 32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04330. Call 207-626-3432.

Down East AIDS Network: 114 State St., Ellsworth, ME 04605. Call 207-667-3506.

Eastern Maine AIDS Network: PO Box 2038, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 207-990-3626.

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Service: PO Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011. Call 207-725-4955.

Names Project/Maine: P.O. Box 10248, Portland, ME 04104. Call 207-774-2198.

Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: PO Box 113, Paris, ME 04271. Call 207-743-7451.

Peabody House: 14 Orchard St., Portland, ME 04102. Call 207-774-6281.

People With AIDS Coalition of ME.: 696 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101. Call 773-8500.

The AIDS Project (TAP): PO Box 5305, Portland, ME 04101. Web page - www.neis.net/aidsproject. E-mail - aidsproj@neis.net Call 207-774-6877.

Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Call 207-338-1427.

Medical Support

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info. & supplies (free condoms!), testing and treatment for infections and STD's, menopause support and more. Evening hours, affordable services, and complete confidentiality. Medicaid welcome. 970 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call 207-874-1095.

FREE FAMILY THERAPY

available for individuals & families (of any type) who are affected by HIV disease. FMI, contact Chris Behan, MSW at Center for Training and Special Programs. 207-773-6658.

Teen Life Center

Youth Clinic sponsored by City of Portland Public Health, Monday-Friday (10:00-11:30 am) The homeless health team's youth clinic is a place where you can receive free health care in a friendly environment. Located on Chestnut St. across from Portland High School. Confidential health services with access to other support

you may need. Drop in between 10 to 10:45 am.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic

Portland STD Clinic provides full range of services from screening & treatment, education & counseling and HIV antibody testing and counseling. Located in Room 303 of City Hall. Anonymous HIV testing by appointment on weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm. Call 207-874-8784. For other STD services: 207-874-8446.

Coping with Caregiving

Provides support for those caring for a disabled or chronically/terminally ill person. Group meets on 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at noon at Mercy Hospital Board Room, sixth floor. FMI call 207-879-3477.

Breast self-exam classes

The Breast Health Resource Center at Mercy Hospital is offering free self-exam classes to teach women how to perform breast self-exams, what to look for, what a lump might feel like, and what to do if you find something that doesn't seem right. Classes are on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

HIV Related Support Meetings

Portland:

Mondays: People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, partners & caregivers, 6:30-8:00 PM.

Tuesdays: People living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers and caregivers, 10:30 am-Noon. TAP, 142 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.

2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well focusing on quality of life and empowerment.

Wednesdays: Drop-in discussion group for married/gay/bisexual/questioning men. FMI call Gerry at 207-774-6877.

1st Wednesday: PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 5:30 pm. Call 775-PAWS. Charles Wynott, Program Coordinator.

Thursdays: People living with HIV meets from 5:30-7 pm. TAP, 142 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.

2nd Thursday: Client Advisory Board, open to all clients of The AIDS Project, 1:30 pm.

The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 142 High St., 6th floor. except the Tuesday group, Living Well. FMI on that call Sandy Titus at Stratogen Health Care. Call Jane O'Rourke at 207-774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.

Family and Friends Accepting Change Together (FFACT), a support group sponsored by Northern Maine AIDS Network for friends, families &

careproviders. Meets every 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm, at the Aroostook Medical Center, conference room A. Presque Isle. FMI, Deb Madore of Health 1st, 207-768-3056 or 1-800-432-7881.

Auburn: People living with HIV disease, Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm at Auburn Family Planning. Call Diana Carrigan, Androscoggin and Oxford Case Manager and Support Services Coordinator for TAP at the Auburn office, 207-783-7301.

Bangor: Man 2 Man HIV prevention program for men who have sex with men. M2M offers education, HIV testing, support groups, HIV/AIDS Hotline and workshops. To volunteer or FMI on the program call 207-990-2095 or write: Man 2 Man, POB 2038, Bangor, ME 04402.

Children's Support Group: Fun activities and outings for children who are affected by HIV/AIDS. Meetings are held twice monthly on Mondays 3:30pm - 5:00pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, Park St., behind City Hall in Bangor. FMI call 207-990-3626.

Women's Support Group: Women living with HIV, meets the last Wednesday of each month 10:45am - 12:00pm. Call 207-990-3626.

Biddeford: People affected or infected by HIV, Mondays, 5:30-7:00 pm. So. ME. Medical Center classroom opposite cafeteria on 2nd floor. Call John Bean, York County Case Manager, 207-774-6877.

Farmington: Thursdays: 6:30-8:30 pm.

HIV+ support group. Call Christie Foster at Tri-County Health Services, 778-4553, for location.

Gardiner: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: People Living with HIV meets from 1:30-3 pm at the KVRHA Annex. Call MASS at 725-4955.

Kennebunk: Drop-in discussion group every Tuesday for married/gay/bisexual/questioning men at TAP Office, Lafayette Center, downtown Kennebunk. FMI call Gerry at 207-774-6877.

Lewiston: 4th Thursday: Great Sexpectations monthly drop-ins for gay, bi & questioning men of all ages. 7:00-10:00 PM, ACLA office (4 Lafayette St.) FMI, Sean-207/786-4697.

Rumford/Mexico Area: Mondays: AIDS Support Group/Phoneline meets from 7-8:30 pm at Mexico Congregational Church, Main Street, Mexico. Call 364-8603.

New Hampshire:

Derry area: Support group open to anyone infected with AIDS/HIV. Hosted by the Ecumenical AIDS Task Force, at St. Thomas Aquinas. FMI or reservations, call Jane Dwyer at 603-432-7530.

Keene: Support group for families, friends, partners of persons living with AIDS or who have died of AIDS. Confidential & anonymous. Meets every other Wed., at Planned Parenthood, 7-8:30 pm. Call Dorothy Anderson at 603-756-4735.

Keene: Support group for HIV positive people and those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. 6:30

pm. For details call Schultz, 603-357-5270.

Lebanon/Hanover: ACoRN offers support groups, case management, community referrals and HIV prevention programs for people in the Upper Valley. FMI call John or Mark at 800-816-2220.

Monadnock Region: For info., referrals, testing, buddies, speakers & volunteer opportunities call AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region at 603-357-6855 or 1-800-639-7903 or call United Way Help-Line, 1-800-368-4357.

Nashua area: Two weekly self-help groups for those infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS. For times, dates and locations, call 603-595-8464.

N.H. Seacoast "Connections" support group for care givers, parents, families and friends, all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS. "Connections" meets every month on second Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Exeter Congregational Church 21 Front St. Exeter, NH. Discussions, information sharing and support are offered in a friendly and private atmosphere. FMI 603-772-6221, or 603-436-8963.

Peterborough: Support group for family, partners and friends whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS meets Tues. at noon. Call Maria Rosario-603-924-7191, ext. 1126 for details.

Winnepesaukee Region: HIV/AIDS support group meets Wednesdays from 7-9 pm at Lakes Region General Hospital. FMI call Wayne at 603-524-3211 ext 3900.

Phone Support By Region

National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project: 1-800-528-NCLR.

Man 2 Man hotline -Providing HIV/AIDS information, and referrals for identity and emotional support services. Staffed Mon-Fri. 8:30 - 4:30. Call 207-990-2095 or in Maine 1-800-429-1481.

Gay & Lesbian Phoneline of Maine: Staffed Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 pm - 9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or (Maine) 800-468-2088.

Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGLY): 1-800-347-TEEN.

National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender youth. Sponsored by the Indianapolis Youth Group. Staffed & trained, peer youth counselors. Lines are open Sunday thru Thursday 7-10 pm, Friday and Saturday 7 pm to midnight. Confidential and anonymous. Call 1-800-347-TEEN

HIV-AIDS Prevention Project: Staffed Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7 - 9

pm. Call 207-498-2088 or (Maine) 800-468-2088

The AIDS Line: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. HIV/AIDS related questions, call Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Mon. & Wed. evenings until 7:30 pm. Anonymous.

DIAL KIDS: For lesbian, gay, bi & questioning youth under 19 yrs. 774-TALK.

Ingraham Volunteers: Call 774-HELP (774-4357).

The AIDS Project 774-6877. Located at 142 High St., 6th floor, Portland 04101. Call for information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.

Bangor: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

Penobscot County: HIV/AIDS Hotline-1-800-429-1481

Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support

Services: 725-4995

Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608 -

Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

Lewiston: AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn: 786-4697

Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3435

Ellsworth: Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

Oxford Hills: Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: 743-7451.

Mid coast: Gay men's HELP LINE, 6:00-9:00 pm (only) M-F 207-863-2728. FAX 207-863-2794. Also, gay youth info.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG) Contacts in Maine (* indicates monthly meetings)

*Dover-Foxcroft: 564-7986 - Sharon

*Brunswick/Bath: 729-0519 - Sally & Gene

*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-6964 - Estelle

*Portland: Rita, 766-5158 or Sue, 774-3441

CONTACTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline: 603-623-6023

New Hampshire: Teen Crisis Line - 1-800-639-6095/1-800-750-2524.

Concord: Judy, 603/485-3943

Webster: Betsy, 603/746-3818

Nashua: Nancy, 603/880-8709

Kensington: Nora/John, 603/772-3893

Stratham: Betty, 603/772-5196

Francestown: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545

Rumney: Ann, 603/786-9812

Upper Valley: Fel, 603-785-4810.

DOVER, NH: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Helpline for information, referral or need to talk. M-F 6-10 pm, Sat.-Sun. 9am-2pm. 603/743-GAY2.

Youth Support

OUTRIGHT

Bangor: Fridays 5:00-7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, Park St., behind City Hall in Bangor. FMI call 207-990-3626.

Outright Too: Supportive, informative and social meetings for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning youth age 22 and under. Safe place for questions, growth, and fun. Held twice monthly. FMI call 207-990-3626, Shawn or Shannetta.

Central Maine: Weekly confidential meetings for gay, lesbian and questioning youth 22 years and under. First Call at 207-795-6677 OR 1-800-339-4042 and ask about Outright.

Lewiston/Auburn: Meets first and third Fridays. Confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, & questioning youth 22 years and under. Call 786-2717 for more information.

Portland: Meets every Fri., 7:30-9:30 pm, The People's Building, 155 Brackett St., 2nd floor, Portland. Safe & supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. FMI call 774-TALK, or 774-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME. 04101.

Waldo-Knox: Meets every other

Sunday in Camden for g/l/b or questioning youth 22 & under. Confidential, supportive, safe space for growth, discussion & fun. FMI Lisa at Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition 338-1427 or write P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Collect calls okay.

Concord: Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm at UU Church, 274 Pleasant St., next to concord Hospital & Orthopedics Clinic. 603/664-9169.

Monadnock: Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm at "The Place To Go", 46 Concord St. (Rt. 202 N), Peterborough, 603/547-2545.

Nashua: Meets every 2nd & 4th Thursday at UU Church corner of Canal & Lowell Sts. (near Dunkin Donuts). Call Steve or Gypsy at 603/672-0792. Email: OutrightNH@AOL.com

Seacoast: Meets every Sun. 5-7 pm (movie night), Tues. 6-8 pm (drop in), & Friday from 7 to 9 pm (support group) at the UU Church Annex (next to fire station), 206 Court St., Portsmouth NH. FMI call 603/431-1013, P.O. Box 842, Portsmouth NH 03801.

COLAGE

A national support group run by and for the children of gay, lesbian or bisexual parents. FMI call COLAGE, 2300 Market St., #1

Social Groups

Maine Frontrunners: a gay and lesbian running club sponsoring weekly run in Portland. We meet at the beginning of Back Cove Walkway (corner Baxter Blvd. & Preble St. Ext.), Saturdays, 9 am. FMI call Jim 761-2059 or John 828-4896.

Out on MDI: For gays, lesbians, bi's and our friends. Very active social/support group. Meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Newcomers always welcome. FMI, write OUT ON MDI, PO Box 367, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679-0367 or call 207-288-2502 and leave a message.

SOLO: Monthly Gatherings for Older, Single Lesbians: for fun & friendship. FMI call Kathy 207-688-4737 or 207-725-0179.

W.O.W. (Wild Outdoor Women): Recreational group meets monthly for outdoor activities followed by pot luck socials. Activities: biking, hiking, camping, canoeing, kayaking. FMI: Jen @ 207-787-2379

Wilde-Stein Club: Meets every Thursday at 6:30 pm at Memorial Union, Sutton Lounge, UM at Orono.

ALMA: Active Lesbians of the Monadnock Area (formerly the Monadnock Area Women) meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. FMI call 603-363-4961.

Dartmouth Women's Meeting: Meets every Monday at 9 pm at the Women's Resource Center, Dartmouth College. FMI call 603-646-3636.

LINC: Lesbians Inviting New Connections. A network serving women in New England. FMI call Pauli at 603-668-9245.

Mountain Valley Men (MVM): A group of gay men of all ages in northeastern New Hampshire and southwestern Maine who get together for potluck supper meetings at 6:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month at the Center of Hope in Redstone(NH); outdoor activities and meetings are listed in the monthly newsletter; FMI: MVM, Box 36, Ctr Conway, NH 03813; Paul or Dave at 207-925-1034; e-mail DFISPALP@AOL.COM..

Seacoast Gay Men: Social group meets Mondays (except holidays), 7 pm Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI call (603) 430-4052, or write P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802-1394.

Women Meeting Women: Lesbian social/support group meeting monthly at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on the 2nd Saturday of the every month from 2:30 - 6 pm. FMI call Dianne at 603-881-4268, or by e-mail DBalbat@aol.com.

Chiltern Mountain Club: Gay and Lesbian outdoor organization with about 1,200 members throughout New England. Activities include hiking, back packing, biking, canoeing, skiing etc; Monthly newsletter listing trips each month. Call either Tracy Green at 207-828-2535 or Mike Boisvert at 603-669-1936.

Calender Items

Seaglass Performing Arts

Seaglass Chorale will perform a Spring Concert together with the Boy Singers of Maine, Saturday March 21, 8:00 PM at St David's Church, Route 1 South, Kennebunk and Sunday March 22, at 4:00 PM at the Chestnut Street Church in Portland. FMI 207-985-8747.

Brunswick

"Poetry Workshop with William Carpenter." Saturday, April 4 from 11 AM - 4 PM at the MWPA office, 12 Pleasant St, Brunswick. Call MWPA to register at 729-6333.

"Steal This Idea!" A workshop for Self-Publishers. Saturday, March 28 at the MWPA office in Brunswick.

Attention Writers:

For the first time ever, Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance is sponsoring a writing competition focusing on childrens literature: the 1998 Maine Chapbook Award. Writers may submit picture books, middle readers and young adult books. For a copy of the competition guidelines call 729-6333, write to MWPA at 12 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, ME 04011, or refer to the March issue of Maine in Print, the MWPA newspaper. Manuscripts must be received by Friday, April 3, 1998.

Bangor

"How to get Published in 1998" A workshop led by Allan Swenson, Saturday, April 4 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the Bangor Public Library. Call Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance to register, 729-6333

L/A Arts is excited to announce the opening and reception of the 9th annual Art Exhibit which culminates in The Art Auction on May 9. Beginning March 27, the public is cordially invited to visit the Lewiston Auburn College atrium Gallery 51 Westminster Street, Lewiston and view quality works of art from over 50 of Maine's top artists. The

exhibit runs from March 27 through May 8, 8am to 8pm Mon. - Thurs. 8am to 4:30 pm fri. 9am to 1pm Sat. (closed Holidays).

The community reception will be held on Friday, April 3 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Guest speakers include Genetta McLean, Director, Bates College Museum of Art and Philip Isaacson, noted Maine art critic. Refreshments will be served. This event, along with the exhibit, is free and open to the public. FMI L/A Arts 1-800-639-2919 (locally 782-7228)

There is an **HIV/AIDS** drop-in support group for those infected and affected by HIV every Thursday evening in Rockland from 6:15pm to 7:45pm. For location of meetings, call Marjorie at the Coastal AIDS Network at 207-338-6330.

Outright is holding meetings in the Camden area for support of gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youths. Outright advocates to create a safe supportive environment for youths.

Meetings will be from noon to 2pm on Saturdays March 14 and 28. For more information call 207-338-6330.

Social and support groups, education and counseling for gay/bi men at risk of HIV infection to stay safe. Video nights are the 2nd Friday of each month at 7:00pm. There is a potluck and discussion group held on the 4th Friday of each month. FMI call 207-338-6330.

The Visiting Nurses Association & Hospice (VNA) and the American Cancer Society will sponsor a series of seminars on Guidance in Grieving.

These seminars will be held on the second Monday of every month, at 7:15pm, at the Methodist Church, Elm Street, South Portland.

For more information, contact Julie Shackley at 207-780-8624; Grace Moulton RN at 207-799-3179; or Rev. Tom White at 207-799-0407.

(VNA) will be holding an on-going Adult Immunization Clinic/Health Screening Clinic for Adults on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 1 - 4pm at the Visiting Nurses Association & Hospice, 50 Foden Road, South Portland, ME.

land, ME.

Among the services to be offered are blood pressure checks; cholesterol screening; TB skin tests; Hepatitis B vaccine; Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccines, Flu Vaccines (seasonally); and pneumonia (must be 65 years or older) to adults 18 years and older. These clinics are by appointment only. For more information call the VNA at 207-780-8624.

The Birthplace at Mercy Hospital offers childbirth education classes through the year at various locations, with each session lasting six weeks. Classes are held at St Joseph's College, Windham, and VNA & Hospice, 50 Foden Road, So Portland, beginning April 9; at 535 Ocean Avenue, Portland and Mercy Hospital beginning March 11; and at Yarmouth Intermed, 259 Maine Street, Yarmouth, and at Mercy Hospital beginning April 6; and at Mercy Hospital beginning April 7. The fee is \$70.00 for six sessions. All classes are from 6:30 to 8:30pm.

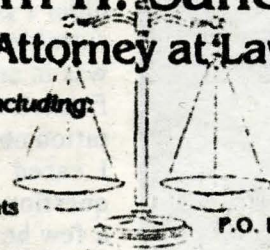
A condensed version of the six week *Childbirth Education Class* is offered on Saturday, March 21, from 9:00am to 3:00pm. The cost is \$45.00. Saturday *Childbirth Education Classes* are held at Mercy Hospital.

Tours of **The Birthplace at Mercy Hospital** are offered on a regular basis. FMI or to register, call 207-879-3950.

William H. Sandstead Attorney at Law

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- Real Estate
- Domestic Partnership Agreements



Call: (207) 761-6680

Email: WSandstead@aol.com

P.O. Box 11150, Portland, ME 04104

Music & Art

Women In Harmony

an eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering organizational skills, send SASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 5136 Sta. A, Portland, ME. 04101, or call 207/774-4940.

Maine Gay Men's Chorus

a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 774-2704 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME. 04104.

The Maine Gay Visual Artist's League

meets on the third Wednesday of every month. The League is a non-profit, creative support network for Maine's gay & lesbian visual

Online/Internet

The Maine GayNet Mail List

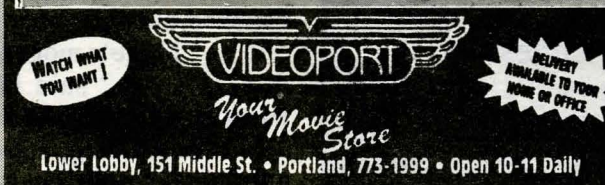
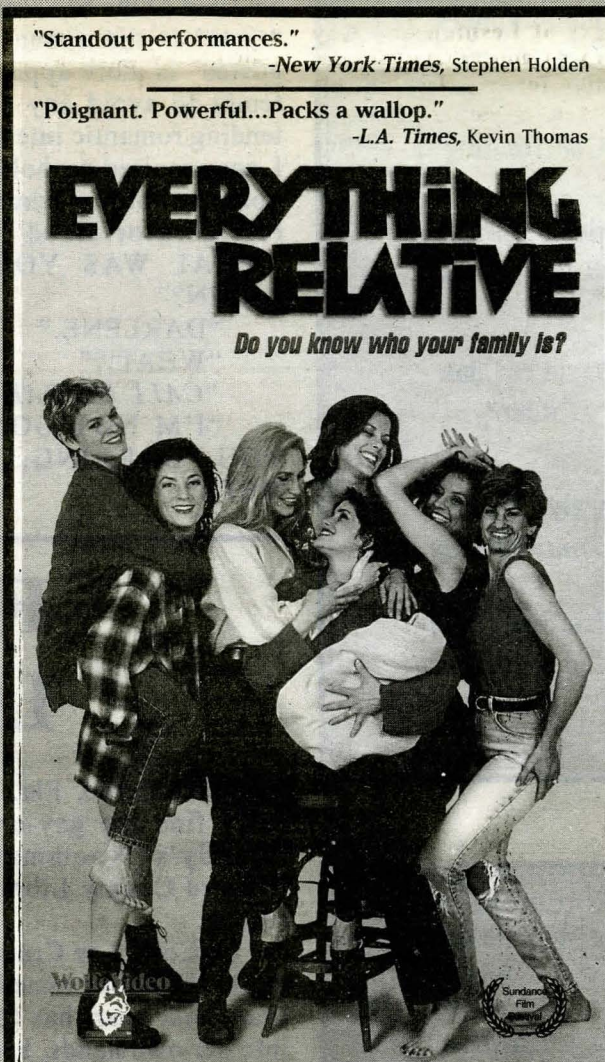
Share your ideas and opinions with other list members. To subscribe to this list, send e-mail to majordomo@abacus.ox.y.edu. In the message part, write "subscribe megaynet"

The Maine GayNet Home Page

An ever-changing display of events and information. Meetings, contact people, resources, & referrals. Point your WEB Browser to: <http://www.qrd.org/www/usa/maine>. FMI e-mail Paula Stockholm: paula@maine.com.

San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Tourism Guide

An online merchant-sponsored Internet website geared to gay and lesbian travellers to the San Francisco area. It is compatible with most mainstrea



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Cranky Ovbervations: Spring Fever?

C.M. Brennan

The promise of spring hiding just around the corner gives life to all those heady hopes of renewal under the sun's warming rays: shy daffodils ducking their heads at passersby; maples strip-teasing new leaves from red buds; Slugger the Sea Dog returning from his winter digs in Casco Bay; battalions of bumble bees and single lesbians looking for new honey.

We are at least assured that the bees will get theirs. As for the single lesbians, well.....let's just say that every spring, the Red Sox think they will have a winning season, too. Somehow, I never make it to the big dance, either.

Maybe it's just me, but the older I get, the harder it is to find a suitable date. Seems like when I was in my early twenties, things like financial stability and family-orientation never crossed my mind — all I cared about was if the lady in question was single, even if only for a few hours. Cuteness counted far more than compatibility. Cute simply doesn't cut it anymore. These days, when I look into a woman's eyes, I wanna see "retirement portfolio", not just "I want to make flapjacks on your tummy."

Like a lot of single lesbians, I am tired of the bar scene. Actually, "tired" is the wrong word: "disgusted" is more appropriate. I attempt to avoid any scenario portending romantic interlude in which I am required to holler above the bone-throbbing whump-bump of refrigerator-sized speakers: "WHAT WAS YOUR NAME, AGAIN?"

"DARLENE."

"WHAT!?"

"CALL ME DAR-LENE!"

"I'M NOT GONNA CALL YOU 'DARLING,' WE JUST MET!!"

Worse still when considering that such futile attempts at conversation aren't reserved for the sobriety-challenged: in a bar, it is entirely likely that you will make a complete ass out of yourself without assistance from St. Louis. The possibility for unintended spectacle is inversely proportionate to the amount of alcohol consumed: when a goodly number of patrons are tanked, standing upright makes one stand out like a sore thumb. It can be a trial.

Responding to personal ads is a little like riding a pogo-stick through a mine field: as if the endeavor itself wasn't dangerous enough in its own right, you never know when some pretty peony is going to blow up in your face. School teachers who bemoan the lack of creative writing in modern society have not picked up a copy of Casco Bay Weekly and read the personal ads. Based on my own experience (having met a few women in this fashion), there seems to be some mighty fine creative writing happening on those pages, some more unintentional than the rest.

To wit: "Professional lesbian ISO like-minded other." Professional lesbian — you mean, I could get paid for this? As opposed to an amateur lesbian? Misplaced modifiers aside, it is a challenge to find an ad literate enough to considering answering, no matter how alluringly the others may dangle their participles. And, due to the tide of lesbian chic, it is hard to pick out the genuine article from amongst the lesbian wanna-be crowd: it becomes a classified version of "Where's Waldo?" A few Melissa CDs and a pair of Birkenstocks do not a lesbian make.

There are the on-line chat rooms, of course, which are little more than animated personal ads.

Somehow, I feel that by looking for Ms. Right in the small print section of anything, I might as well dredge up a mail-order bride catalogue from Alaska. Never mind the fact that often what looks good on paper becomes a disaster when translated into reality: one need only look at government efficiency plans for the proof.

Volunteering for community interest groups has potential, provided one can work around the tendency of lesbians to travel and socialize in packs. I have spent entire evenings trying to decipher which women were partnered, which women were hanging out with buddies, and which women were genuine fifth wheels in their assorted coteries. Joining a gaggle of lesbians for an outing is as much an exercise in group dynamics as it is an attempt at personal-level interaction.

Even worse to have your social circle evolve into a Dolly Levi coalition and foist upon you a woman they consider "soooo perfect for you" without your prior knowledge: with my luck this happens on a night when I went out dressed as my laundry hamper. As for politics, well, it's so hard to tell when gazing into the eyes of an activist if the fire I see there is desire or simply revolutionary fervor.

All of which leaves me wondering when and where, if and where, I might meet the woman who will be The One. Drop Me A Line? At City Hall when I renew my fishing license? Hadlock Field? Thumping melons at the local farmer's market? Or, perhaps, when I least expect it, when my hair's a mess and I have once again slopped coffee down my shirtfront, I will look up and there She will be.

Is it ever really that easy? I hope so.

Florida Woman Offended By Library Book Subject Matter

Melbourne, Fla. (AP) If you can't find the gay-oriented book "Daddy's Roommate" in the Brevard County Library, there's a reason.

Coral Lee Craig, who failed to get the book banned from the library last year, has taken matters into her own hands, keeping a copy checked out for about a year.

"There's more than one way to skin a cat," said Ms. Craig, of Palm Bay.

Ms. Craig, a member of the Christian Coalition, said she and some friends have borrowed the book for three weeks at a time throughout the year. They haven't been completely successful since the library system has four more

copies of the book.

Ms. Craig said the children's book is inappropriate for youngsters because of its homosexual theme. "Daddy's Roommate" is written from the viewpoint of a young boy whose father divorces his mother and moves in with a male partner.

The book caused a stir when it was published in 1990. Ms. Craig said it's a recruitment tool for gays.

Ms. Craig also has managed to keep another gay-oriented children's book off the shelves. "The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans" tells fairy tales that have gay adults throughout the stories.

The county had only one copy, which Ms. Craig lost.

"I thought I lost it and paid for it," Ms. Craig said. "But I found out I had loaned it to a friend. It's mine now."

Library officials are limited in what they can do to someone like Ms. Craig, said Judith Krug, director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom at the American Library Association.

"We believe its nobody's business what you read or how you use the library," she said. "But personally, if I knew somebody was going out of their way to do this, I would be the first one in line to put my name on the list to see what I wasn't supposed to read."

The Community Pride Reporter is printed on recycled paper using soy based inks. This practice reflects our commitment to responsible use of our earth's resources.

Using recycled paper sometimes results in the paper having a toned down or grayish tinge. However we feel this is a small price to pay as Community Pride Reporter does it's part to "Color ME Green."

Favorable Court Rulings Contrast Legislative Progress:

State Republican Parties Adopt Anti-Gay Platforms

WASHINGTON, DC March 2, 1998 Recent court rulings in favor of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) rights provided a welcome contrast to the recent, disappointing repeal of Maine's civil rights law and slow-going progress in state legislatures. In less than a week's time - February 27 to March 4 - three important court rulings have come down in favor of equality for GLBT persons.

"The courts have once again proved an important safety net in ensuring basic constitutional and human rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people," stated NGLTF executive director Kerry Lobel.

Today the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force released its latest Legislative Update. The Legislative Update tracks GLBT-related and HIV/AIDS-related bills in state legislatures throughout the country for the 1998 legislative year. This Update documents well over 100 pieces of GLBT and HIV/AIDS related bills in 33 states. Attacks against GLBT families in the form of anti-adoption/foster care, anti-marriage, and anti-domestic partnership measures were numerous. In addition to legislation, in other state ne

On the judicial front, on February 27 an Alaska Superior Court rejected the state's request to dismiss a lawsuit filed by two men for the right to marry. Similar to the way the Hawaii marriage case progressed, the judge ruled the State of Alaska must show a compelling interest to prohibit same gender couples from

marrying. The state will likely appeal the ruling to the State Supreme Court. If the lower court ruling is upheld, a trial would be held where the state would be made to demonstrate a state inter

Days later after the Alaska decision, a New Jersey court came down with a ruling that put yet another dent in the armor of discrimination. On March 2, a New Jersey state appeals court ruled that the Boy Scouts of America prohibition against gay men was a violation of the state's civil rights law which bans discrimination against based on sexual orientation.

Then on March 4, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that federal sexual harassment law includes same-sex harassment. This is an important victory as harassment against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons often occurs as a form of sex harassment where men are ridiculed for being "too feminine" or women for being "too masculine."

These rulings are stark relief to the repeal last month of Maine's civil rights law. The measure was passed by the state legislature and signed into law by Governor Angus King last May. Right wing groups secured signatures to put the issue to a public vote, employing Maine's rarely used ³people's veto² provision. The law was repealed by less than two percentage points on February 10.

The invoking of New Jersey's civil rights law in the Boy Scouts decision highlights the necessity of anti-discrimi-

nation laws and the disappointment in the repeal of Maine's law. "These recent decisions further underscore the importance of civil rights laws for our community. Without the law in New Jersey, the court may not have ruled as it did," said Kerry Lobel.

Ten states have laws banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. They are New Hampshire (1997); Rhode Island (1995); Minnesota (1993); California, Vermont and New Jersey (1992); Hawaii and Connecticut (1991); Massachusetts (1989); and Wisconsin (1982).

As of March 11, 1998, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force tracked 146 gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender (GLBT) or HIV/AIDS-related state legislative measures. They have been introduced in 33 states and Puerto Rico. The Task Force has classified 67 of these bills as unfavorable and 79 as favorable to the GLBT community. HIV/AIDS related bills account for approximately a third (49) of all measures tracked. When these HIV-related measures are taken out of the equation, 56 bills are considered favor

In the arena of civil rights, 14 favorable measures were introduced, though passage for most of them seems unlikely. In addition, while 4 states in 1997 passed hate crimes laws that included sexual orientation (see NGLTF's Capital Gains and Losses 1997), it's unlikely that 1998 will come close to a repeat of such a major legislative success.

Insurance Tips: Am I Covered?

by Carolyn Jalbert

Do you use your car in the course of your employment? You may not have coverage!

If your employer asks you to transport clients and you are using your own vehicle you may not have coverage!

In recent month, we have received an alarming influx of phone calls from our insured clients who ask us if they'd be covered if they have rides to clients to medical appointments, interviews or to drive them for personal care errands. If you are providing transportation as a paid employee in nearly all cases you are not covered under your personal auto policy.

If you volunteer, and do not accept monetary compensation, the State of Maine Insurance Department will enforce that your insurance carrier provide coverage under your personal auto insurance policy.

However, if you are an employee and are found liable for an accident or injury while transporting a patient, client or transporting goods during the course of your employment your personal auto policy will not respond.

If you are delivering pizza or sand-

wiches and use your own vehicle, which is insured under a personal auto policy, your policy will have exclusionary language specific to this regard that you should read. Delivering newspapers with your won car - same problem.

Personal auto policies do not contemplate this additional exposure and are specific about excluding this type of commercial exposure. Personal auto policies do not build a sufficient premium base to support this type of open ended exposure.

There is no way for the employer to control what type of condition the employees auto is in such a regular safety inspection, reviewing driving records, making certain all state safety laws are enforced or that they are adequately insured. It's a litigation nightmare waiting to blow up.

Employers, managers and organization heads - do you want to expose both your organization and employees to lawsuits?

Do you know what your company or organizations position is this on this? Also think twice about what would happen to all those concerned if no cover-

age is provided.

Whether transporting individuals or pizzas in the course of employment or for a fee, you need commercial liability insurance. Don't take chances, call your agent and make certain you have it in writing that you are covered.

All too often the agent and insurance company don't know that you are using your vehicle for this purpose. Winging it is often the method of choice in our society and we hear it often - Won't happen to me, or I'll chance it.

Doing things the right way may cost a little more but consider the negative impact of an uncovered property loss accompanied by extensive injuries. Court costs alone could drain your household, business or organization of all of its financial resources.

The purpose of carrying insurance is to provide you with protection, but if you choose to ignore a potential exposure - the ramifications can be devastating. When in doubt, call your agent.

Community Pride Reporter

Our Mission

Community Pride Reporter serves as a source of local, state, national and international news, information, ideas and opinions by and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. CPR pledges to present materials that contribute in positive ways to lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgendered people.

Our Editorial Policy

Views and opinions, political and personal, expressed in Community Pride Reporter are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the publisher. Community Pride Reporter may endorse candidates we feel represent our community most completely. Community Pride Reporter disclaims legal responsibility for errors in editorial, or advertising content, as all reasonable care is taken to prevent such errors. If an error has significantly detracted from the clarity of information presented, the Publisher may consider printing a clarification at her discretion. No assumption should be made concerning the sexual self-identification of either contributors or advertisers.

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CPR encourages readers to write! Material submitted for publication must be legibly signed and include address and/or phone number for verification. All submissions are subject to editing. Please keep letters to the CPR Mailbag to 300 words or less. Slightly longer and more composed submissions may be considered for a guest editorial at the Publishers discretion. If requested, the Publisher may agree to withhold the name of an author for appropriate reasons. Questions regarding submissions should be directed to the publishing editor.

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Submissions are welcome throughout the month and will be published, at the publishers discretion, in the next available issue.

Please contact the office at 207-282-6045 for special publishing needs especially inclusion in a particular issue.

Arts & Entertainment

Advice to "Ellen": Make Your Point But Make Us Laugh

By Lynn Elber

LOS ANGELES (AP) "Seinfeld," which is about nothing, is wrapping up its nine-year run covered with glory as TV's most popular sitcom. "Ellen," a show that is very much about something, is dying a slow and painful death.

But "Seinfeld" isn't popular because it's about nothing, and "Ellen" isn't facing cancellation because it has a point to make. The difference between the two is more fundamental, at least in TV terms: One is funny, the other isn't anymore.

"I'm gay, the character's gay and that's the problem everyone has with the show. It's just too controversial, nobody wants to deal with it," star Ellen DeGeneres said last week on "Entertainment Tonight," the TV program.

She's right, of course, when it comes to the network. ABC undoubtedly would love to bid goodbye to the headaches "Ellen" has brought it but it couldn't, and wouldn't, if the ratings for the show (9:30 p.m. EST Wednesday) were high enough.

DeGeneres has done little recently to help herself in that quarter.

There is room on sitcoms for messages, sermons, even politics, when they are the seasoning in the stew. But when comedy becomes afterthought, too much is being demanded of viewers.

Plots can revolve around teen-age drug use ("Home Improvement") and drinking ("Boy Meets World" this Friday), around cancer ("Murphy Brown") and weight bias ("The Drew Carey Show") because they are the exception, not the rule.

The shows also know to follow the trail blazed by such 1970s TV pioneers as Norman Lear with "All in the Family" and Larry Gelbart with "M-A-S-H": Even racism, death and war can be dressed up as sitcom fodder with humor as the sugar coating.

"My take has always been we can tackle any subject as long as we're not preachy, as long as we remember we're trying to entertain with it," says Bruce Helford, executive producer of "Drew Carey" and an alumnus of "Roseanne," which explored such issues as domestic abuse.

The Warner Bros. network's kid-oriented comedy "Smart Guy" focuses Wednesday on the difficult subject of sexual predators who find young victims on the Internet.

"Twenty-one out of 22 episodes, we're doing something amusing and funny and not this kind of thing, so we can draw them (the audience) in to pay attention to this one," said executive producer Bob Young.

Such series are playing by TV rules. But not "Ellen," a show trying bravely _ but badly _ to illuminate an aspect of life which

at least some Americans prefer to pretend doesn't exist.

DeGeneres and "Ellen" rose to that challenge with last season's sharp and funny coming-out episode, and she drew a sizable audience. But now she and the show seem overwhelmed by the task.

A recent fantasy episode pictured Ellen and her pals in a gay and lesbian world in which heterosexuals are the minority. It had all the wit of an Army training film on hygiene.

A few good lines were scattered throughout, but the premise mostly fell flat as we watched Ellen's gang mock straights for their dancing and their dreadful taste in decorating and Norman Rockwell art. Satire demands a lighter hand.

DeGeneres, who has railed against ABC for slapping warning advisories on her show, scored a point with a TV-watching scene in which an episode of "Mad About You" is labeled for adult subject matter.

"It's so silly. Just because Helen Hunt kisses that guy," Ellen mutters.

Absolutely dead on, and absolutely unfunny because we know how angry DeGeneres is. As a viewer, one starts to feel like a character in a bad '80s film, whining "What about MY needs?"

DeGeneres was right to continue exploring her character's new life, its challenges and joys. And she rightly moved Ellen into a lesbian relationship, just as she had dated men before acknowledging her homosexuality.

But the episodes began to take on the

feeling of a primer rather than a comedy, revealing the exploration of a woman's new life. Here's Ellen learning how to be open, here's Ellen helping her friends adjust, here's how narrow-minded the world is.

Perhaps driven by the belief that this season would be "Ellen's" last, DeGeneres hastily crammed in a master's thesis on lesbian sensibility and life.

The result: Viewer affection and influence DeGeneres had gained previously were squandered, and ratings began to fall. She charmed us straight; she could have charmed us as a lesbian.

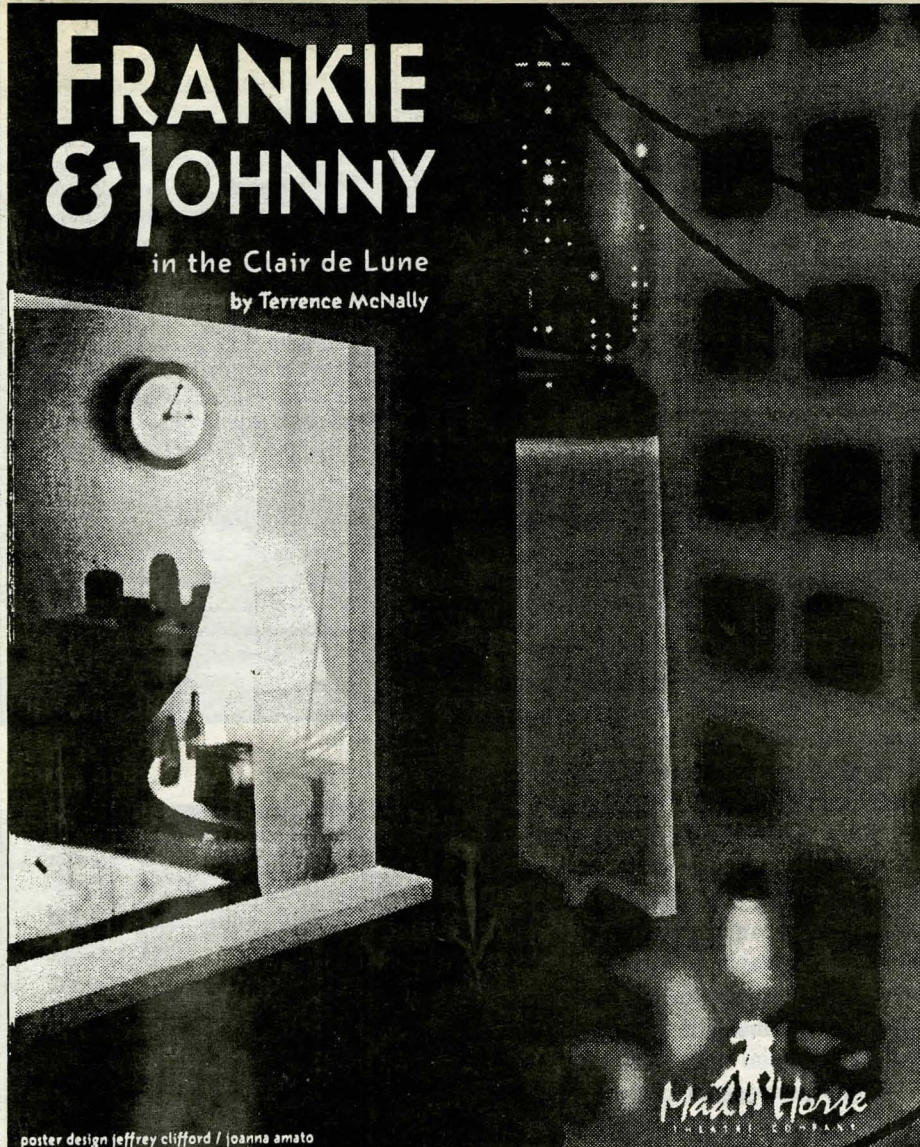
(DeGeneres gets a little help from a friend this week when real-life girlfriend and A-list actress Anne Heche appears on the show. The episode was unavailable for preview).

DeGeneres has said she fully expects ABC to cancel her series after this season. Network officials insist the matter isn't decided, but it's clear they would welcome the show's demisefalling ratings give them an easy out.

The network could argue that it's not getting rid of the first TV program to feature a gay or lesbian lead character; it's merely cutting loose a weak show.

But if ABC would give DeGeneres one more try, with the breathing room and support she needs to do "Ellen" right, and if the actress could give the show the comic edge it must have, it could be turned around.

Maybe we expect too much of DeGeneres and too much of the network. But if they could deliver, viewers might be willing to ask more of themselves.



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Seacoast Repertory Theatre Holding Auditions For Upcoming Productions

The Seacoast Repertory Theatre in Portsmouth, New Hampshire is holding auditions for a wide array of upcoming productions.

Auditions for the upcoming production of "Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" will be held on Monday & Tuesday, March 23, in the theatre at 125 Bow Street. Performers should come prepared with a song and a monologue.

Actors will also be considered at that time for the upcoming summer production of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" and "Grease"

Please note that interested adult performers must call Dana Dube for an appointment at (603) 443-4793.

These auditions will be Monday, March 23, from 6:00

PM to 10:00 PM. Men and women for lead roles as well as chorus roles. All children wishing to try out should come to the theatre on Tuesday March 24, at 5:00 PM.

Auditions for Youth Theatre production of "Johnny Appleseed" will be held on Thursday, March 26 between 4:00 and 6:00 PM. Men, women and children of all ages are invited to try out for a wide range of parts. Performers must come prepared with a song and a monologue.

The Seacoast Repertory Theatre is a not for profit, professional nonequity performing arts organization dedicated to serving the seacoast community. Any questions regarding these auditions should be addressed to Dana Dube, at (603) 433-4793.

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